

NAS NORTH ISLAND - NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

POLLUTION PREVENTION

DRUM WASHER

LEAD ACTIVITY

Public Works Center (PWC) San Diego

STATUS

Completed

MISSION

Recycle and reuse emptied 55-gallon metal drums

DESCRIPTION

Public Works Center (PWC), San Diego's drum washer operation allows for recycling of drums, reduces new drum purchases, enables recycling of recovered material, and reduces final disposal costs. The drum washer is a fully enclosed unit that uses pressured hot water containing a detergent to wash the interior and exterior of a drum thoroughly. Various products used by the Navy are delivered in 55-gallon drums that must be disposed of after use. An emptied drum is defined as containing less than 3 percent of the original contents (by weight) or less than 1 inch of residue on the bottom of the drum.



Drum Washer

The drum washer operation consists of a wash cycle followed by a hot rinse to remove soap residue. The effluent from the drum washer is treated on site. Drums deemed to be in good condition are washed to allow their reuse for hazardous waste collection. Drums that are damaged or do not meet the facility reuse criteria are washed and crushed for scrap metal recycling.

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